

Remarks

Claims 1-10 and 12-16 are pending in the application. Claim 6 has been amended to correct a minor typographical error. Such an amendment is made for clarifying purposes only and not in view of the prior art. Reconsideration, a withdrawal of all rejections, and a Notice of Allowability are respectfully requested.

Applicants acknowledge the finding of the Office that Claims 1-10 and 12-16 distinguish over the prior art.

A Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement and accompanying PTO Form 1449 are submitted herewith making various references of record.

Claims 1-6 and 12-16 are provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting over Claims 1-3, 5-9, 21 and 25 of copending application no. 10/071,674 (" '674 application"). Although Applicant believes Claims 1-6 and 12-16 to be patentably distinct from the above-referenced claims of the '674 application, a Terminal Disclaimer is filed herewith for the purposes of expediting prosecution. A withdrawal of this rejection is therefore respectfully solicited.

Claims 1-6 and 12-16 are provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting over Claims 2-5, 8-9, 12, 14, 18 and 28 of copending application no. 09/971,799 (" '799 application"). Although Applicant believes Claims 1-6 and 12-16 to be patentably distinct from the above-referenced claims of the '799 application, a Terminal Disclaimer is filed herewith for the purposes of expediting prosecution. A withdrawal of this rejection is therefore respectfully solicited.

Claims 1-6 and 12-16 are provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting over Claims 2-4, 19 and 20-22 of copending application no. 10/311,819 (" '819 application"). Although Applicant believes Claims 1-6 and 12-16 to be patentably distinct from the above-referenced claims of the '819 application, a Terminal Disclaimer is filed herewith

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for the purposes of expediting prosecution. A withdrawal of this rejection is therefore respectfully solicited.

Claims 1-10, 12-14 and 16 are provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting over Claims 1-10 and 12-14 of copending application no. 10/312,073 (" '073 application"). Although Applicant believes Claims 1-6 and 12-16 to be patentably distinct from the above-referenced claims of the '073 application, a Terminal Disclaimer is filed herewith for the purposes of expediting prosecution. A withdrawal of this rejection is therefore respectfully solicited.

The points of the Office Action being addressed in full, a Notice of Allowability is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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